

**Biology 496**  
**BIOLOGY AND ECOLOGY OF WATERFOWL**  
**FALL 2009**  
**Lecture: TR 8:30-9:20A (Holt 235)**  
**Lab/Field: F 8 (7) -11A (Holt 235)**

**Jay Bogiatto, M.S., Faculty**  
**Office: Holt 211**  
**Hours: T. 10:30-11:30A**  
**R. 1-3P**  
**Phone: 898-4490**  
**Email: rbogiatto@**  
**csuchico.edu**

## **COURSE SYLLABUS**

### **REQUIRED MATERIALS**

National Geographic Guide to Birds of North America, 5th edition  
Dissection Kit (See Omicron Coffee/Donut Table for good kits)  
**Bellrose, F. C. Ducks, geese, and swans of North America**  
Field notebook with waterproof cover/paper (e.g., Elan)

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

Midterm Exam	70 Points
Lab Practical Exams (2)	80 Points
Field Practical Exam (spread over last 4 field trips)	40 Points
Final Exam (Written plus Slides)	80 Points
Research Paper	<u>80 Points</u>

**TOTAL: 350 POINTS**

### **GRADING\***

A	90-100%	C+	78
A-	89	C	70-77
B+	88	C-	69
B	80-87	D	60-68
B-	79	D-	59
		F	58 and below

### **POLICIES**

- 1.) There will be no make-ups of exams in this course.
- 2.) Tardiness / Absenteeism is unacceptable
- 3.) Missed labs and field trips without “serious and compelling reasons” (see CSUC Catalog) will result in a subjective adjustment to your course grade.  
**The weekend field trip in November is considered mandatory, so missing it for a “serious and compelling reason” will require completion of a second research project. Otherwise, missing this trip will result in the loss of one full letter grade for the course.**
- 4.) Other than for emergency purposes, cell phone use will not be tolerated during any academic component of this course.

- 5.) Due to the lack of course fees or other funding, we will be forced to carpool on field trips. I for one will volunteer my truck.

## **LECTURE CALENDAR**

### **DATE**

### **TOPIC**

#### **August**

25

**Course Orientation**

27

**Evolutionary Concepts:**

**Darwinian Model**

#### **September**

**1 Compensatory Day Off**

3

The Darwinian Model

**8 Mandated Furlough Day**

10

Speciation

15

Speciation

17

Speciation

22

Evolution of Anseriformes

24

Evolution of Anseriformes

29

Evolution of Anseriformes

#### **October**

1

**Reproduction: Mating  
Systems**

6

Waterfowl Mating Systems

8

Waterfowl Mating Systems

13

Courtship-Pair Formation

**15 Mandated Furlough Day**

**20 MIDTERM EXAM**

22

Courtship-Pair Formation

27

Mate Choice

29

Brood Parasitism

#### **November**

3

Nest Site Selection through  
Hatch

5	Nest Site Selection through Hatch
10	Nest Site Selection through Hatch
12	Brood Period: Development, Molting, and Plumage Patterns
17	<b>Distribution:</b> Important North American Wintering Areas
19	Waterfowl Migration

## THANKSGIVING BREAK

### December

1	Important North American Breeding Areas
3	Important North American Breeding Areas
8	<b>Waterfowl Parasites and Diseases</b>
10	Waterfowl Parasites and Diseases
15	<b>Final Exam (10-Noon)</b>

## LAB/FIELD CALENDAR

### DATE

### TOPIC

**August 28:**

A Review of Taxonomy and Systematics/  
Taxonomy and Systematics of the Anatidae  
(Family, Subfamilies through Tribes of  
Anserinae) / Genus and Species level  
taxonomy of the whistling-ducks, geese and  
swans / Avian External Morphology and  
Plumage Patterns

**September 4:**

An introduction to the Subfamily Anatinae;  
Tribe: Anatini / Genus and Species level  
taxonomy of the dabblers of North America

**September 11:**

An introduction to the Tribes Aythyini,  
Mergini and Oxyurini / Genus and Species-  
level taxonomy of the Pochards, Sea ducks  
and Stiff-tails of North America

**September 18:**

**Lab Practical Exam I**

**September 25:**

**FIELD TRIP: An  
Introduction to  
Local Refuges**

**October 2 (7-11A):**

**Museum Skin Preparation**

**October 9: (7-11A)**

**Museum Skin Preparation**

**October 16: (7-11A)**

**FIELD TRIP: Upper Butte  
Basin Wildlife Area**

**October 23: (7-11A)**

**Internal Anatomy and Osteology Lab**

**October 30:**

**Wing Lab I: Species Identification, Aging,  
and Sexing Techniques**

November 6:

Wing Lab II

**November 13: (7-11A)**

**FIELD TRIP: Rancho Llano  
Seco; An Historical  
Perspective**

**November 20: (7-11A)**

**FIELD TRIP: Valley “Hot  
Spots”**

**November 21-22:**

**WEEKEND FIELD TRIP:  
Chico to Gray Lodge WA  
/ Sacramento NWR - 7A  
Saturday – 5P Sunday.**

## **THANKSGIVING BREAK**

**December 4:**

**Lab Practical Exam 2**

**December 11: (7-11A)**

**FIELD TRIP: Feather River**